

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SAIGON 03572 270332Z

61

ACTION EA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 PM-03 INR-05

CIAE-00 DODE-00 SP-02 PRS-01 L-01 H-01 /039 W

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P 270242Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4189

INFO USDEL JEC PARIS PRIORITY

COMUSSAG NKP PRIORITY

CINCPAC PRIORITY

COMIPAC PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 3572

LIMDIS

FOLLOWING BIEN HOA TEL SENT 26 TO AMEMBASSY SAIGON BEING REPEATED
TO YOU:

CONFIDENTIAL BIEN HOA 216

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652C GDS

TAGS: MOPS, VS

SUBJ: MILITARY SITUATION IN MR3

REF: BIEN HOA 211

1. THIS MESSAGE IS BASED ON A CONVERSATION WITH THE MR3
COMMANDER LTG TOAN AND, SEPARATELY, HIS CHIEF OF STAFF COL
MINH AT 1715 HOURS MAR 26. THERE IS NO SIGNIFICANT CHANGE IN
THE SITUATION. TAY NINH PROVINCE IS UNUSUALLY QUIET WITH BOTH
THE 25TH DIV AND 3RD ARMORED BRIGADE REPORTING NO CONTACTS AT
1730 HOURS. GEN TOAN IS CONCERNED ABOUT POSSIBLE NEXT MOVES BY
THE 7TH DIV. RE/PF IN BINH TUY PROVINCE DESTROYED A SIZEABLE
NVA/VC BASE AREA DEEP IN THE JUNGLE TWO DAYS AGO.

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PAGE 02 SAIGON 03572 270332Z

2. IN A 20-MINUTE DISCUSSION WITH GEN TOAN, HIS MAIN IMMEDIATE

CONCERN WAS WITH POSSIBLE OFFENSIVE ACTION BY THE 7TH DIV. HE IS WORRIED THAT GVN FORCES HAVE NO KNOWLEDGE OF THE LOCATION OF THE 165TH REGT AND THAT CONTACT HAS NOW ALSO BEEN LOST WITH THE 141ST REGT WHICH LAST SAW ACTION AT DINH QUAN ON ROUTE 20. MR3 G-2 HAS A REPORT THAT THE 141ST WAS PROCEEDING NORTH OF ROUTE 20 TO LAM DONG PROVINCE IN MR2 BUT GEN TOAN AND OTHER STAFF OFFICERS FIND THIS DIFFICULT TO BELIEVE. THERE IS CONCERN THAT INSTEAD THE 141ST MIGHT, AFTER CROSSING TO THE NORTH SIDE OF THE DONG NAI RIVER IN WAR ZONE D, TURN WESTWARD AND PROCEED TOWARD PHU GIAO WHERE IT MIGHT JOIN THE 165TH IN AN ATTACK ON MR3'S PRESENTLY WEAK CENTER IN BINH DUONG PROVINCE. ALTERNATIVELY, THESE REGTS MIGHT ATTACK INTO NORTHERN BIEN HOA TOWARD TAN UYEN. ANOTHER POSSIBILITY CITED BY GEN TOAN WAS AN ATTACK BY 7TH DIV ELEMENTS INTO THE CAY GAO AREA OF THE LONG KHANH/BIEN HOA BORDER IN THE DIRECTION OF TRANG BOM ON ROUTE 1. PENETRATIONS FROM CAY GAO WEST OR SOUTH WOULD PLACE NVA ELEMENTS ON THE IMMEDIATE EASTERN FLANK OF BIEN HOA.

3. SPEAKING OF THE TAY NINH AREA, GEN TOAN SAID HE THOUGHT THE 9TH NVA DIV IS WEAK AFTER THE FIGHTING ALONG LTL-26, PARTICULARLY THE 271ST AND THE 95C REGTS. HE, NEVERTHELESS, SHARES GEN KHOI'S CONCERN (REFTEL) THAT ELEMENTS OF THE 9TH DIV MAY HAVE FLANKED GVN DEFENSES ON LTL-26 ON THE NORTH SIDE AND HE IS WATCHING REPORTS OF A LARGE NVA CONCENTRATION WITH TANKS IN THE CAU KHOI AREA SOUTH OF LTL-26.

4. ABOUT 750 RF AND PF TROOPS OF THE SAME 1,400 WHICH WERE DEPLOYED ALONG ROUTE 333 AND IN THE HOAI DUC AREA BEFORE THESE WERE OVERRUN BY RECENT NVA/VC ACTION HAVE NOW RETURNED TO GOVERNMENT LINES AND ARE BEING REFORMED IN BINH TUY FOR FURTHER FIGHTING. ONE GROUP OF THESE TROOPS CAME UPON A SIZEABLE NVA/VC REAR AREA BASE AT ABOUT YT6812 AT 2300 HOURS MAR 22 AND DESTROYED 4 LARGE LOGGING TRUCKS LOADED WITH ABOUT 6 TONS OF MIXED AMMUNITION, USING THE TRUCK GASOLINE TO SET FIRES, AND DESTROYED ALSO ABOUT 100 AK-47'S AND A 75MM RECOILLESS RIFLE. THE STORY WAS REPORTED MAR 25 WHEN THE RF TROOPS REACHED GVN LINES.

PETERS
LEHMANN

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